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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/573,233

Applicant: GRIES, et al.

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Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

MAILING/TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8 OR 1.10			
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